



Comorbidities in patients consulting their general practitioner for low back pain

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Auteur Pernollet, Eric [1], Bouton, Céline [2], Ramond-Roquin, Aline [3], Räber, Cécile [4], Fouquet, Natacha [5], Huez, Jean-François [6]

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Low back pain (LBP) is a major public health problem, and one the most frequent reasons for encounter (RFE) in general practice (GP). In France, we are lacking data on comorbidities and health care behaviours of patients with LBP in GP.

The aim of this ongoing study is to describe the associated RFE of patients from 18 to 65 consulting their general practitioner for LBP.

Ecogen is a French national descriptive study, undertaken in 128 different offices of GP in 2012. One day by week, for all the consultations, all the RFE, the diagnosis and the procedures implemented by the GPs were recorded according to the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC-2). All the consultations of patients from 18 to 65 seeking care for LBP were selected. Then the population and all the RFE and diagnosis related to these consultations were described, and their frequencies were compared to those of a matched sample of patients having not sought care for LBP. Finally, some typical associations of RFE and diagnosis were looked for, and compared according to the characteristics of the patients.

About 650 consultations will probably be selected. As suggested by international literature, other musculoskeletal complaints, pain syndromes and psychosocial problems may be more frequent in the patients with LBP than in others. This study will provide a more accurate assessment of the frequency of these comorbidities, and might lead to more original results, as the frequency of other chronic diseases and specific associations of comorbidities in patients with LBP.

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